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Rebel Sword™

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THE KURDISH HERITAGE FOUNDATION OF AMERICA

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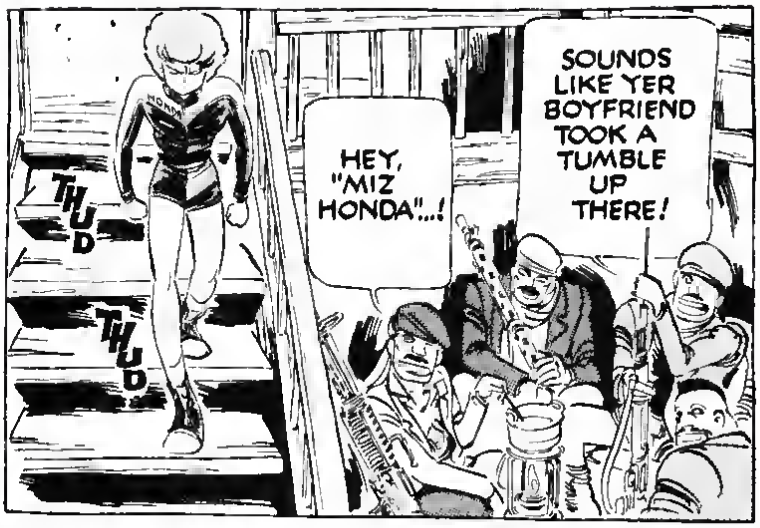
ACT.6

لما في السموات وما في الأرض هذا للذي يشفع

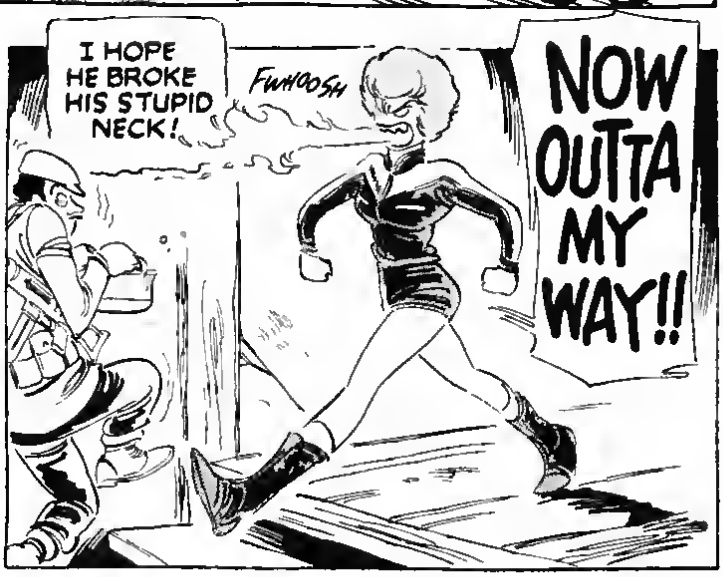
DON'T PLAY GAMES WITH ME!
JUST WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
KRA SH

SKSHH
SKSHH


THUD
THUD
HEY, "MIZ HONDA"...!
SOUNDS LIKE YER BOYFRIEND TOOK A TUMBLE UP THERE!

MY, MY!
AIN'T YOU WORRIED ABOUT HIM?
Aww, WHAT'S WRONG, DEARIE?

SHUT UP!!


I HOPE HE BROKE HIS STUPID NECK!
FWHOOSH
NOW OUTTA MY WAY!!

?

HMPH!
ASSHOLE!
I HATE HIM!!
HONDA

MY NAME IS URMIYE.
I DESIRE YOU, JIRO.
I WAS JEALOUS OF THAT GIRL...
YOU'D NEVER USED A KNIFE BEFORE, YET YOU FOUGHT WITH RUKEN JUST TO PROTECT HER. THAT'S WHEN I KNEW I HAD TO HAVE YOU...

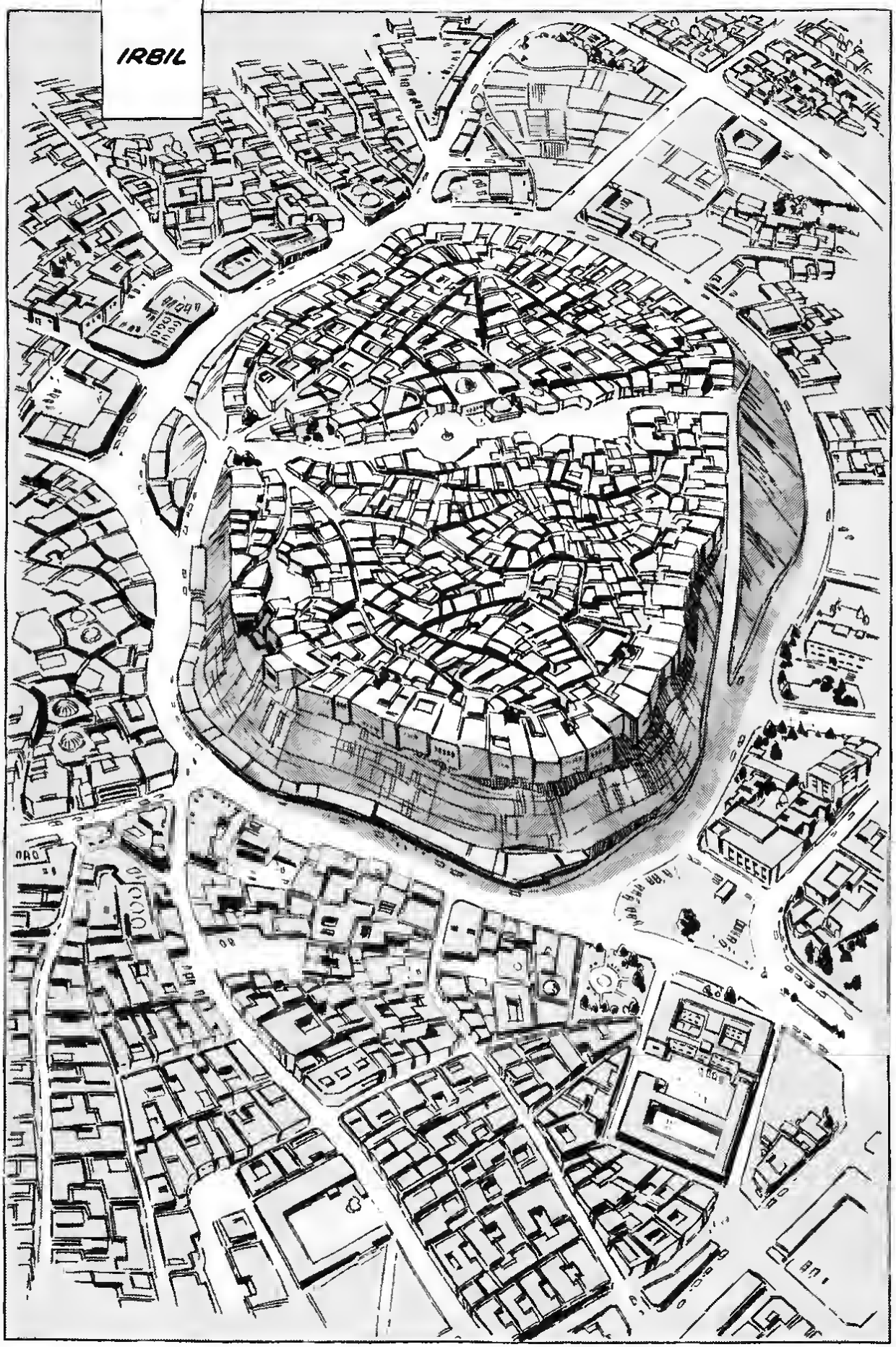
B-BUT YOU TRIED TO KILL ME!
I WAS ATTRACTED TO YOU EVEN THEN.
THAT'S WHY I DIDN'T HIT YOU.
OTHERWISE I WOULD HAVE KILLED YOU WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT.
I WAS BETROTHED TO RUKEN WHEN I WAS VERY YOUNG...
A KURDISH MAN WILL NEVER FORGIVE A WOMAN WHO HAS BETRAYED HIM.
RUKEN WILL KILL US BOTH.
BUT I DON'T CARE...
...NOT NOW.
YOUR HEART IS BEATING SO FAST...
YOU'VE NEVER BEEN WITH A WOMAN BEFORE, HAVE YOU?
NOT EVEN A JAPANESE WOMAN...?
JIRO...

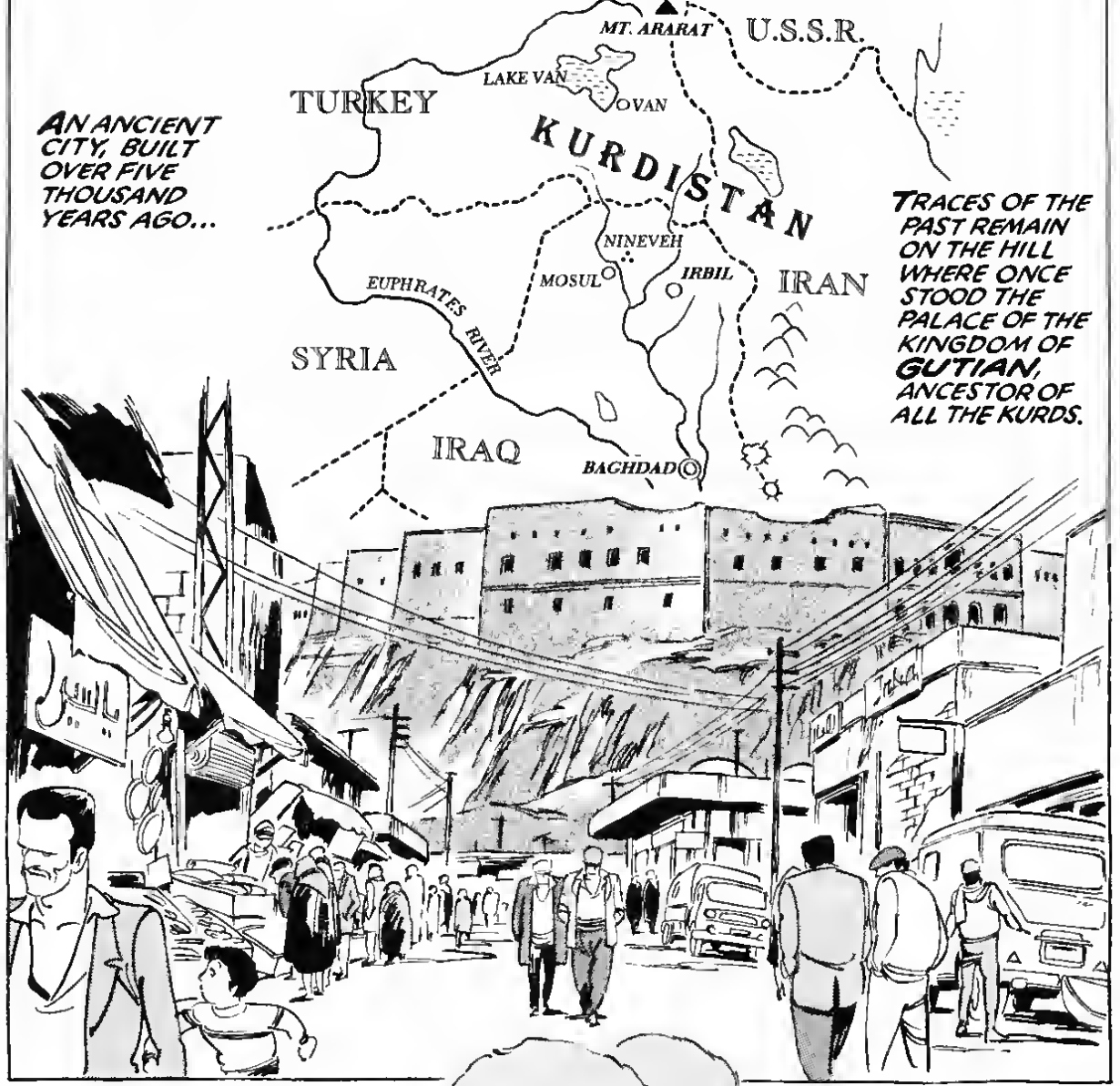
SOMEONE ONCE TOLD ME...
...THE AĞA'S DAUGHTER--YOUR MOTHER SARI...
...LOOKED A LOT LIKE ME.
YOU'RE A BIT OF A MAMA'S BOY, AREN'T YOU, JIRO...?
YOU CAME ALL THIS WAY TO LOOK FOR THE MOTHER YOU COULDN'T FORGET...
BUT I'LL BE BETTER TO YOU THAN YOUR MOTHER EVER WAS, JIRO...
...IF YOU'LL LET ME!!

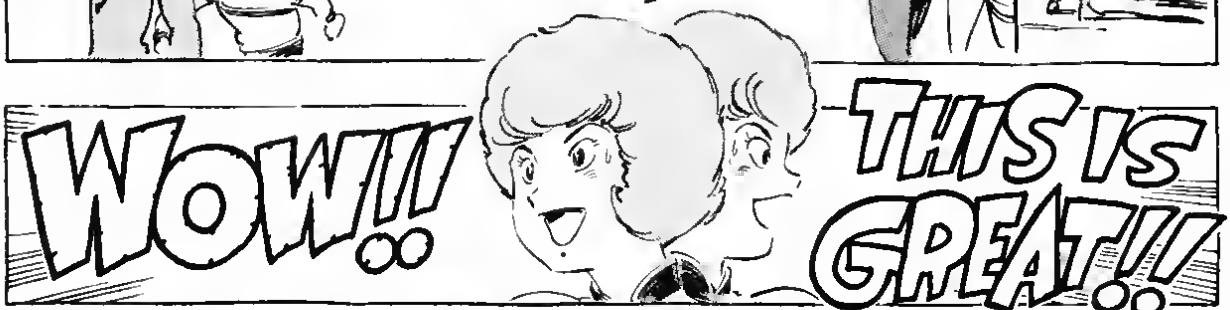
KREEK
YAWWWNNNooo
KLIK
YO, RISE AND SHINE!
YOU AWAKE?
?
?
WELL, WELL!
LOOKS LIKE YOU HAD A ROUGH NIGHT, KID!

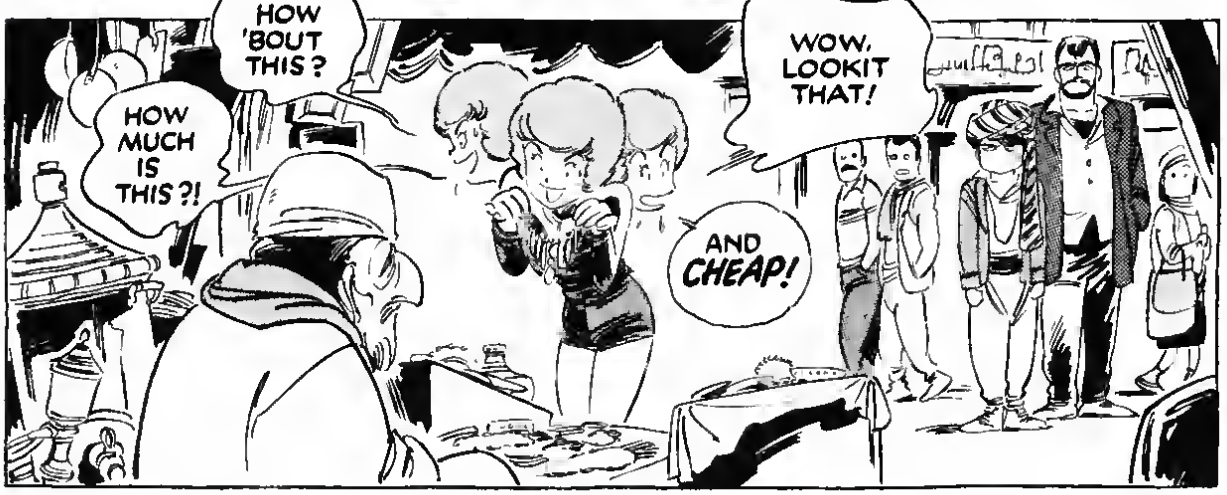
HMM... ?
SNFF SNFF
SMELLS LIKE A WOMAN...
!!
GOT ATTACKED BY THAT LITTLE MOTORCYCLE MAMA, DID YOU?
UHH...
AIN'T EASY BEING A LADY'S MAN, Eh?!
I'VE MADE UP MY MIND.
CHNK
WE'LL PULL A COUPLE MORE AMBUSHES, THEN TAKE A BREAK AND VISIT IRBIL.
IRBIL ?
IT'S A CITY ACROSS THE BORDER IN IRAQ.
HAS A POPULATION OF HALF A MILLION-- ALMOST ALL KURDS. YOU MIGHT SAY IT'S OUR CAPITAL...

THE HIGH COUNCIL OF THE KURDISH LIBERATION FRONT MEETS IN IRBIL.
THE FIRAT KURDS TAKE ORDERS FROM NO ONE, BUT I HAVE TO CONSULT WITH THE COUNCIL ABOUT SOMETHING.
LOOKS LIKE THE TOP BRASS IN ANKARA HAVE DECIDED TO REALLY COME AFTER US NOW.
BUT...
WHAT ABOUT THE FORTRESS, AND THE AĞA... AND MY BROTHER?
SO WHAD-DAYA SAY? WANNA COME WITH ME?
YOU'RE THE AĞA'S GOLDEN BOY, AFTER ALL.
EVERYONE IN THE FORTRESS IS SAFE. THEY MIGHT BE ABLE TO HARASS 'EM FROM THE AIR, BUT THEY CAN'T ATTACK OVERLAND.
ON OUR OWN GROUND OUR WARRIORS'D KILL 'EM ALL.
OKAY... IF LIRA CAN COME.
HAH! I KNEW YOU'D HAVE GUTS FOR IT!
TRUST ME, IT WON'T BE A WASTE OF YOUR TIME--IRBIL'S THE PLACE TO PICK UP ON RUMORS ABOUT EVERYTHING!
RUMORS...?


IRBIL


MT. ARARAT
U.S.S.R.
LAKE VAN
VAN
TURKEY
KURDISTAN
NINEVEH
MOSUL
IRBIL
IRAN
EUPHRATES RIVER
SYRIA
IRAQ
BAGHDAD
AN ANCIENT CITY, BUILT OVER FIVE THOUSAND YEARS AGO...
TRACES OF THE PAST REMAIN ON THE HILL WHERE ONCE STOOD THE PALACE OF THE KINGDOM OF GUTIAN, ANCESTOR OF ALL THE KURDS.


WOW!!
THIS IS GREAT!!


HOW 'BOUT THIS?
HOW MUCH IS THIS?!
WOW, LOOKIT THAT!
AND CHEAP!

HEY, DON'T GIVE ME THAT LOOK, JIRO!
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?
CAN'T I DO A LITTLE SHOPPING?
HEY!
JACKPOT! A SURPLUS SHOP!!
WHAT LUCK!
WHAT ELSE IS THERE TO DO IN THIS HICK TOWN, ANYWAY?
COME, COME!
I'LL ONLY BE A SEC!
WAIT UP, OKAY?
JEEZUS...
WHY TH' HELL DID I BRING HER ALONG?
URK ?!
WHAT ?!
SHH!
DON'T TURN AROUND!

SECRET POLICE.
HE'S BEEN FOLLOW-ING US FOR A WHILE.
WH--
--WHAT'LL WE DO?
D--
DEMIREL !!
ABDUL IBRAHIM DISTR
GO TO THAT ADDRESS. I'LL SHAKE HIM.
IF YOU THINK YOU'RE GONNA BE CAUGHT...
...EAT THAT! UNDER-STAND?
ULP!

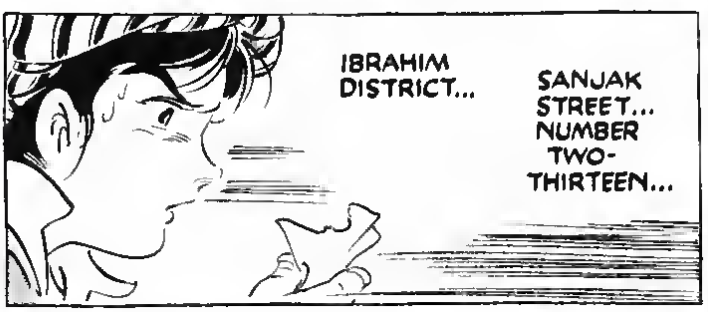
HOLY SHIT! IF HE CALLS IN REINFORCE-MENTS...
...I'M SCREWED!
WE'VE GOTTA GET AWAY FROM HERE!
NOW!!
JIRO!!
SO WHADDAYA THINK?
ISN'T THIS JUST A DARLING OUTFIT?!
CCCP

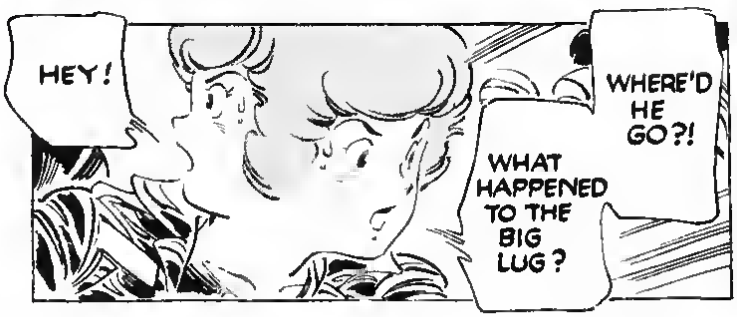
I CAN'T BELIEVE THESE PRICES!
EVERY-THING'S PRACTICALLY FREE!
THEY'VE GOT LINGERIE, TOO!
YOU OUGHTA BUY SOME CLOTHES, TOO, JIRO!
INSTEAD OF THAT DUMB OL' KURDISH OUTFIT!
GET SOME-THING REALLY COOL!!

HEY, SUIT YER-SELF!
IF YOU WANNA BE IN DISGUISE...
HM?
WHAT'S UP?

C'MON !!

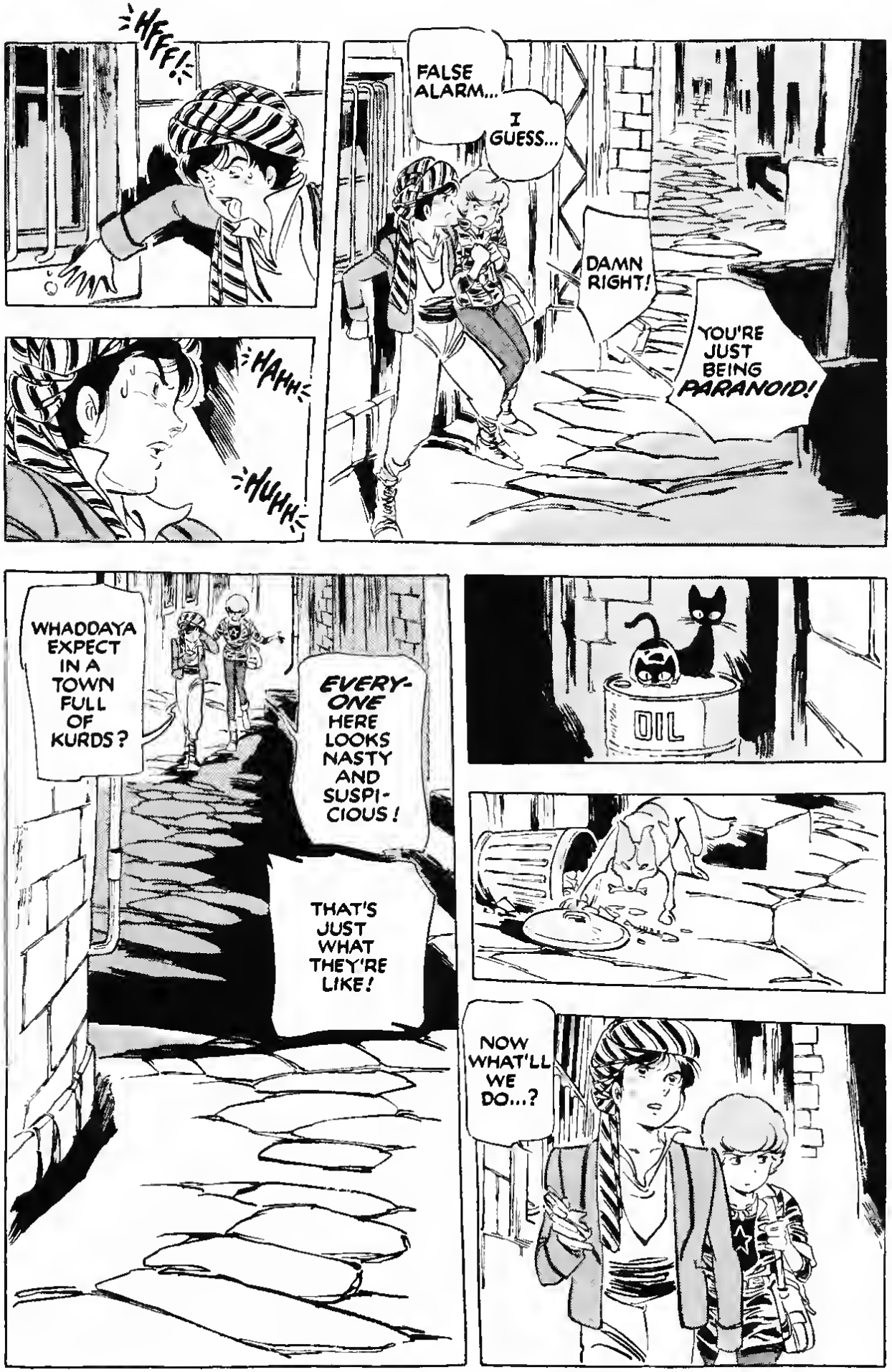
COME ON?
W-WHERE TO...?
AB... ABDUL?


IBRAHIM DISTRICT...
SANJAK STREET... NUMBER TWO-THIRTEEN...


HEY!
WHERE'D HE GO?!
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE BIG LUG?

WHDD

THIS WAY!
WHDD
HAHH
HAHH
HAHH
SORRY!
'SCUSE US!
HAHH
HAHH
HAHH

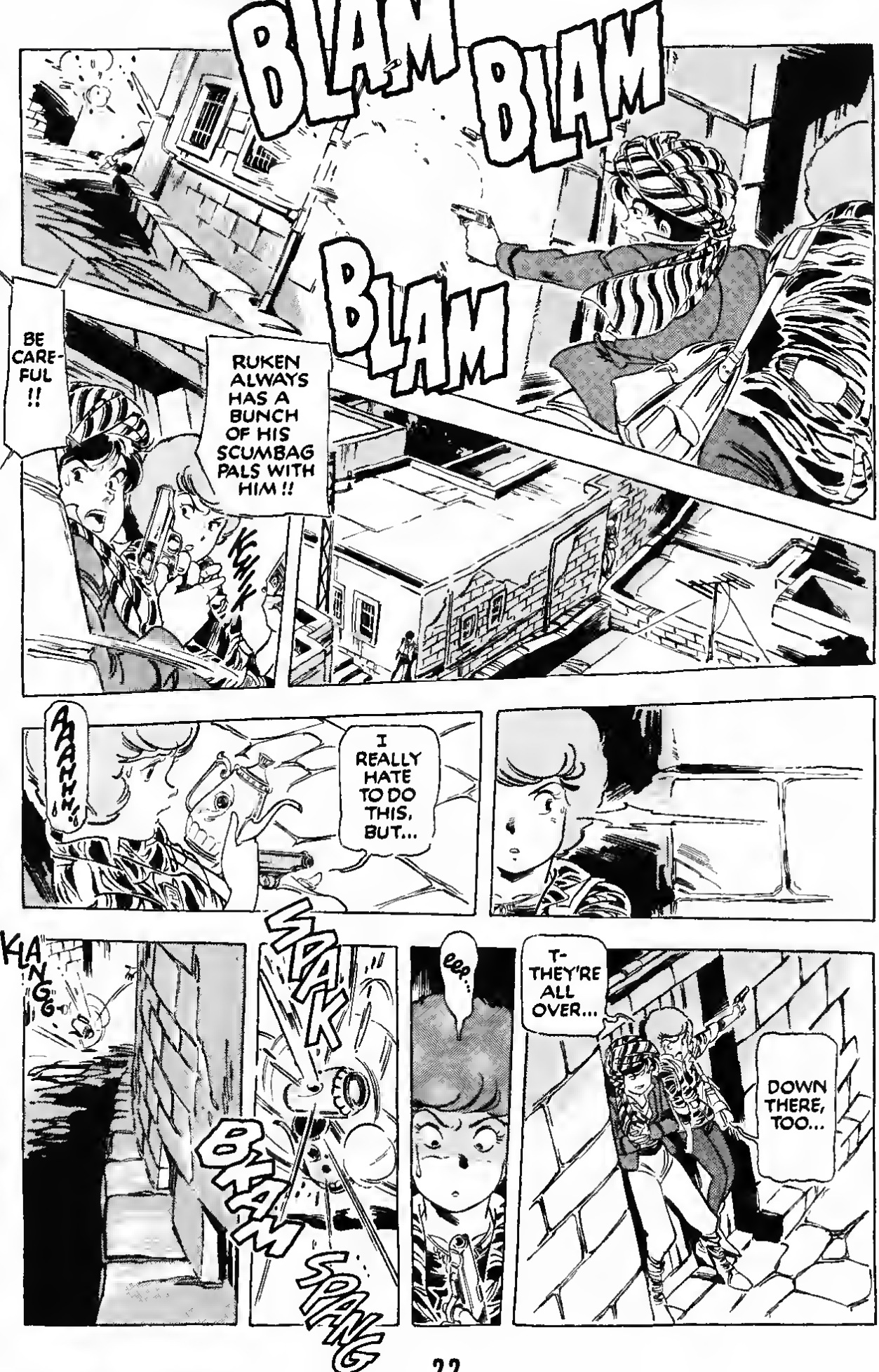

HFFF!
FALSE ALARM... I GUESS...
DAMN RIGHT!
YOU'RE JUST BEING PARANOID!
HAHH
HUHH
WHADDAYA EXPECT IN A TOWN FULL OF KURDS?
EVERY-ONE HERE LOOKS NASTY AND SUSPI-CIOUS!
THAT'S JUST WHAT THEY'RE LIKE!
OIL
NOW WHAT'LL WE DO...?

LESSEE... IBRAHIM DISTRICT, SANJAK STREET...
SEE, WHAT'D I TELL YOU?!
THAT'S WHAT YOU GET FOR RUNNING AROUND LIKE A MANIAC!
HOW THE HELL ARE WE GONNA FIND THIS PLACE?
DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE ACTING A LITTLE HYSTERICAL ?
YOU LITTLE PUSSY !!

WHAT?!
WHAT DID YOU CALL ME?!
A PUSSY?! JUST WHO THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE TALKING TO?!
IT'S YOU AND YOUR STUPID SHOPPING SPREE--
--THAT GOT US INTO THIS FIX IN THE FIRST PLACE!!
UH-OH.. LOOKS LIKE HE'S REALLY PISSED...
BUT SO WHAT?!
LISTEN, BUSTER, IF I WANNA SHOP, IT'S NONE OF YOUR DAMN BUSINESS!
SO DON'T GIMME THAT SHIT!!
WHY DID YOU COME HERE, ANYWAY?!
IT IS TOO MY BUSINESS!!
BECAUSE YOU ASKED ME, JERK!!
HEY!!
CCCP
HANDS OFF!!
GIMME THAT PIECE OF COMMIE JUNK! I'LL THROW IT IN THE TRASH FOR YOU!!
GIMME!
BK!
AAH!

GET DOWN!!
SPARK
!? .....
SECRET POLICE?!
NO!
IT'S HIM!!

GOD DAMN IT!!
HOW'D HE KNOW WE WERE HERE?!
URMIYE MUST'VE TOLD HIM!
SO IT WAS ALL JUST AN ACT!
DAMN IT!!
BLAM
BLAM
LIRA! RUN!!
CCCP

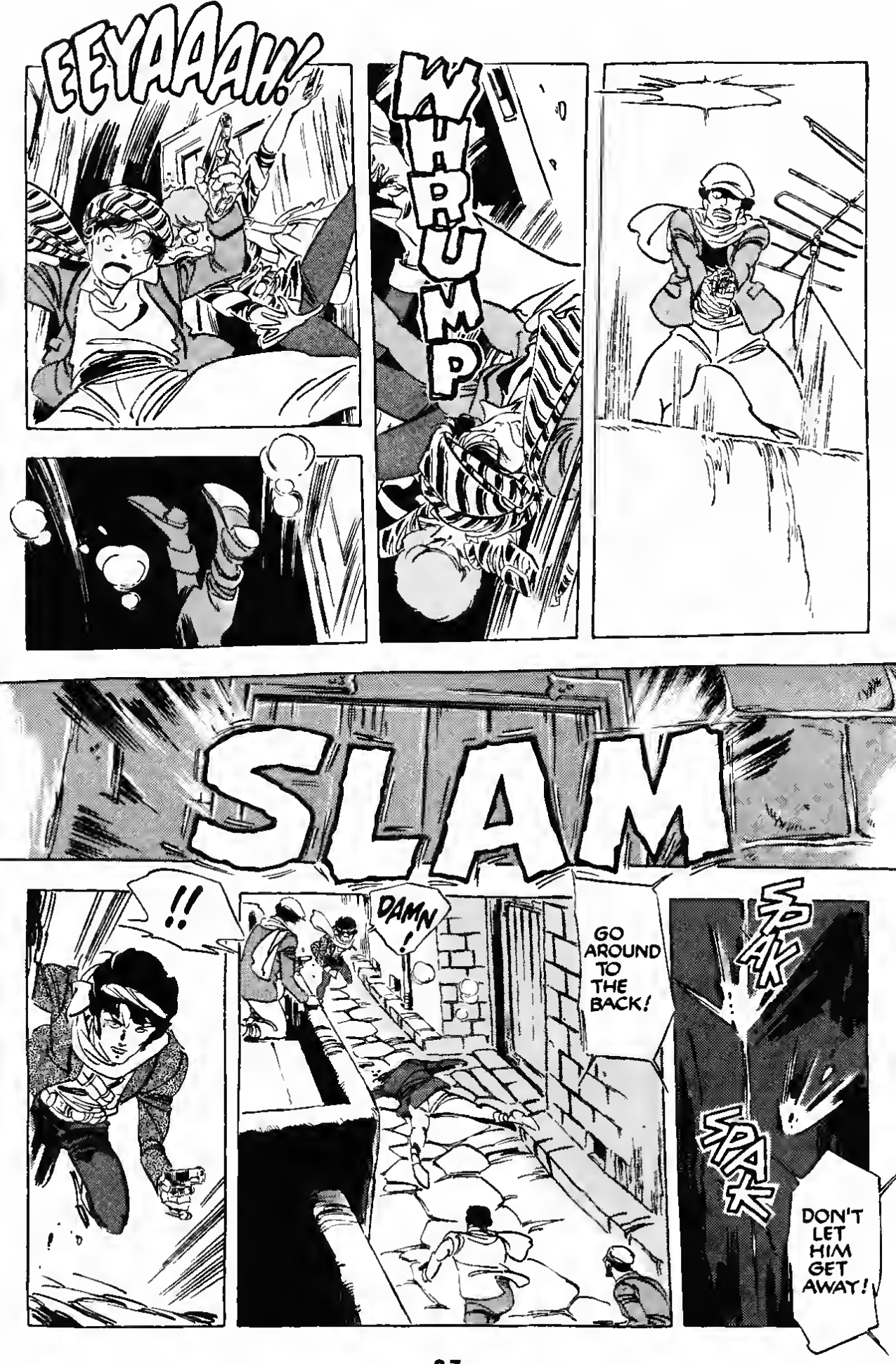

BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BE CARE-FUL !!
RUKEN ALWAYS HAS A BUNCH OF HIS SCUMBAG PALS WITH HIM !!
KHIK
AAHH!
I REALLY HATE TO DO THIS, BUT...
KLANG
SPAK
BKAM
SPANG
eee...
T- THEY'RE ALL OVER...
DOWN THERE, TOO...

BLAM

SPLAKK
HHK!
BLAM
BLAM
LEAVE US ALONE, YOU BASTARDS!
BLAM
BLAM

DO SOMETHING, JIRO!!
WE CAN'T JUST WAIT FOR THEM!!
I...IF WE CAN GET THIS DOOR OPEN...
...MAYBE WE CAN...
BAM
BAM
SOLID AS A ROCK!
OH NO!
I THINK IT'S BARRED FROM THE INSIDE!
HEH...
EEK!
SPAK
BLAMMMMMMMM

HEH..
HEH HEH...
SK SSH
OH SHIT!!


EEYAAAH!
WHRUMP
SLAM
!!
DAMN!
GO AROUND TO THE BACK!
SPAK
SPAK
DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY!

<FOLLOW ME, JIRO-SAN!>
?!
BKAM
BKAM
CCCP

HOTEL
LOOKS LIKE WE LOST 'EM.
YOU'RE SAFE NOW...
YOU'RE JAPANESE...
...AND YOU KNEW MY NAME.
THAT'S RIGHT.
I'VE BEEN IN IRBIL A LONG TIME, SO I KNOW MY WAY AROUND...
KLIK
BUT I GOTTA ADMIT, I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THAT!
THIS ONE, Too!!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING...
...IN A HOLE LIKE THIS?
I'M A JOURNALIST.
A FREELANCER-- JUST DIGGING AROUND FOR GOOD COPY...
GULP
MNCH MNCH
HORY!
DEMIREL'S NOTE
HEY, INSTEAD OF EATING LITTLE PIECES OF PAPER...
...HAVE SOME TEA AND BISCUIT!
JIRO!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, YOU IDIOT?!
KOFF! HACK!
INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO CONTACT THE KURDISH RESISTANCE, I BET!
HEY, IT'S AN OPEN SECRET, JIRO!
BACK IN SEPTEMBER, I HEARD A JAPANESE TOURIST HAD DISAPPEARED AFTER BEING TAKEN FROM HIS HOTEL IN ISTANBUL.

THE CONSULATE WROTE IT OFF AS JUST ANOTHER YOUNG TRAVELER MEETING WITH AN UNFORTUNATE ACCIDENT...
...BUT I DIDN'T.
AS SOON AS I HEARD THE NAME, I HAD A HUNCH IT WAS CONNECTED TO THE DISAPPEARANCE SEVERAL YEARS EARLIER OF THE WORD-FAMOUS ORIENTALIST TOSHIRO MANABE.
IF I WAS RIGHT, THEN THE MOST LIKELY DESTINATION WAS IRBIL, WHERE MANABE WAS LAST SEEN... AND THIS WASN'T JUST YOUR TYPICAL TOURIST KIDNAPPING.
SO I DECIDED TO STAY PUT ON MY TURF HERE, PUT OUT MY FEELERS, AND WAIT.
LOOKS LIKE MY HUNCH WAS RIGHT!
I CAN BE OF USE TO YOU, JIRO MANABE.
FOR EXAMPLE...
...IF YOU LIKE, I CAN TELL YOU WHERE YOUR OLD MAN IS.
MY FATHER?!
YOU CAN?!
YOU'VE HEARD OF NOAH'S ARK, HAVEN'T YOU?!
.....
.....!
LEGEND HAS IT THAT TRACES OF THE ORIGINAL ARK CAN BE FOUND ON THE TOP OF THE CERTAIN MOUNTAIN... WHAT A LOAD OF CRAP!
AND YET... OVER THE CENTURIES, DOZENS OF SCHOLARS AND ADVENTURERS HAVE CLIMBED THAT MOUNTAIN, HOPING TO FIND PROOF THAT THE LEGEND IS TRUE.

YOU...
YOU MEAN...
THAT'S RIGHT!
YOUR OLD MAN MUST HAVE FALLEN UNDER THE SAME SPELL, GOD KNOWS WHY...
BUT AT ANY RATE, FROM WHAT I'VE BEEN ABLE TO LEARN SO FAR...
OL' TOSHIRO'S STILL ALIVE AND KICKING...
...UP ON THAT MOUNTAIN SOMEWHERE--
--UP ON MT. ARARAT!
MY FATHER... ALIVE... ON MT. ARARAT...?!

end of part one

FINISH LINE

The other day a fellow editor told me how angry he was that some of his books were being purchased and put away, that people were buying his comics, but they weren't reading them. I just sat back and smiled. You see, I don't have that problem. When people buy the manga titles that I edit, they're buying them to read. They are faithful fans, not enslaved by the unpredictable caprice of "what's hot."

Manga has had a long, uphill struggle, fighting for every fan and reader with tooth and nail — and quality. Nowadays, just about anybody in America with an ounce of persistence and a local printing press can put out a comic (quality art or story is optional). Not so manga. The titles that make it to American comics-shop shelves have passed through a battery of filters designed to strain out the junk and allow only the best work being produced in Japan to come through, work that puts a great portion of American comics to shame. It does this, despite the fact that most manga is created and published in black-and-white. This one detail alone has kept a legion of readers away. They have no idea that they are missing some of the best work that the comics world has ever had to offer. Their loss.

There have been attempts to color manga, to make it more palatable to Western comics readers. Most of these attempts have been utter failures. Like the trend in "colorizing" old films, certain ineffable qualities are lost in the transition. Consider this some bonehead decides to colorize the black-and-white portions at the beginning and end of *The Wizard of Oz*, where Dorothy is back in Kansas. Suddenly, Oz isn't quite so magical anymore, is it?

The point here is that there is an important place for black-and-white material. Originally the province of economy, the use of black-and-white has become an artistic statement: the apparent reduction of content (no color) allows an artist's line work to shine. I don't have to venture very far afield for an example, either. Just around the corner, there's a town called *Sin City*. The current diversity of comics publishers is in no small part the direct benefit of the black-and-white boom of the mid-'80s. Modern manga has a foundation of forty years of experience.

In recent months, Dark Horse has striven to offer the most diverse line of manga of any American company. With such titles as *Oh My Goddess!* and *Rebel Sword*, we have expanded the number of genres represented by manga to include romance and contemporary adventure. And we're not stopping there. Upcoming projects feature some of the greatest world-class talents in comics. Masamune Shirow's cyberpunk epic, *Ghost in the Shell*, promises a healthy dose of high-technology subterfuge, with all of the visceral action, vast character, and subtle speculation that Shirow is known for. Johji Manabe's *Outlanders* offers everything from quirky space opera to high drama. Yuzo Takada's modern fable of a monster who wants to be human returns with *3x3 Eyes*. And Katsuhiro Otomo, creator of *Akira*, brings us two separate miniseries. Otomo writes *The Legend of Mother Sarah*, in which a mother searches for her lost children in a wasted future Earth, and unwittingly spreads hope to everyone she meets. *Domu: A Child's Dreams*, written and illustrated by Otomo, is the grim horror tale of psychic war and loss of innocence that won the Japan Science Fiction Association's Grand Prix award, becoming the only comic to ever win the esteemed literature prize.

So if you're looking for comics that deserve to be read, not polybagged and thrown in a box, you've come to the right place. Come and see what you've been missing.

— Peet Janes
Associate Editor

Illustration from *Domu: A Child's Dream*

Domu: A Child's Dream © 1995 by Katsuhiro Otomo. All rights reserved.

Masamune Shirow and other manga creators suffered during the Kobe earthquake in January. Donations can be made to the following:

American Red Cross
Japanese Earthquake Relief Fund
1550 Sutter St.
San Francisco, CA 94109
1-800-842-2200

MAR. CHECKLIST

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- ❑ BASE 2 #1
- ❑ GHOST IN THE SHELL #1
- ❑ GIVE ME LIBERTY (LIMITED-EDITION HARDCOVER)
- ❑ HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MARTHA WASHINGTON
- ❑ JAMES BOND 007: THE QUASIMODO GAMBIT #2
- ❑ X #12

SHIPPING MARCH 14

- ❑ AGENTS OF LAW #1
- ❑ ALIENS VS. PREDATOR: DUEL #1
- ❑ CLASSIC STAR WARS: THE EARLY ADVENTURES #8
- ❑ COLORS IN BLACK #1
- ❑ DARK HORSE INSIDER #40
- ❑ DARK HORSE PRESENTS #95
- ❑ HELLBOY (LIMITED-EDITION, SIGNED-AND-NUMBERED HARDCOVER COLLECTION)
- ❑ INDIANA JONES AND THE IRON PHOENIX #4
- ❑ MADMAN COMICS #6
- ❑ REBEL SWORD #6
- ❑ STAR WARS: TALES OF THE JEDI — DARK LORDS OF THE SITH, BOOK 1 #6

SHIPPING MARCH 21

- ❑ ALIENS: BERSERKER #3
- ❑ DOMU: A CHILD'S DREAMS #1
- ❑ GRENDEL TALES: DEVIL'S CHOICES #1
- ❑ OUTLANDERS, VOLUME 4 (TRADE PAPERBACK COLLECTION)
- ❑ PREDATOR: JUNGLE TALES
- ❑ SIN CITY: THE BIG FAT KILL #5
- ❑ STAR WARS: DARK EMPIRE II #4
- ❑ TRIPLE X #4

SHIPPING MARCH 28

- ❑ CLASSIC STAR WARS: THE VANDELHELM MISSION
- ❑ EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS' TARZAN: THE LOST ADVENTURE #3
- ❑ HARLAN ELLISON'S DREAM CORRIDOR #1
- ❑ THE MASK #2
- ❑ NEXUS: THE WARES OF SIN #1
- ❑ OH MY GODDESS! PART 2 #2
- ❑ 3 X 3 EYES (TRADE PAPERBACK COLLECTION)

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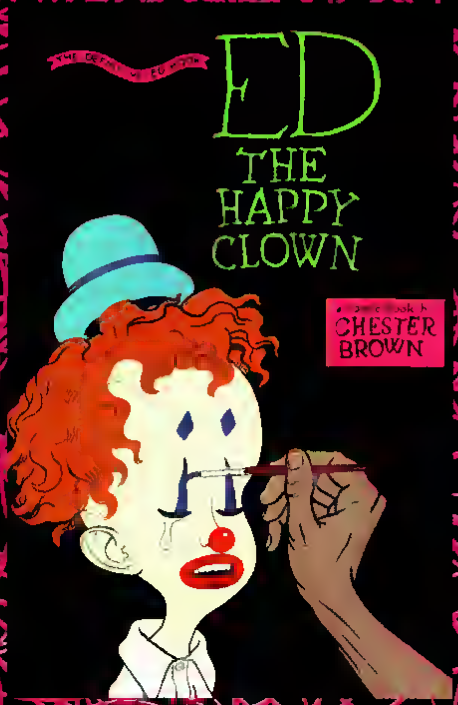

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